cooperation /ˈkɒɒpəˌreɪʃ(ə)n/ noun [U] ★★

Level: Upper Intermediate - Advanced

Suggestions for use in the classroom

This dictation is appropriate for classes at Upper Intermediate level or above. Although the dictation is only about 1 minute long, the ideas below will need about one hour of class time if you use them all!

1. Lead-in
You can prepare the students for the dictation by using one or both of the following activities:

Ask the class how many different extreme sports they know. Elicit two or three examples from the whole class. Then put the students into pairs or small groups and give them two minutes to think of as many more as they can. Rearrange the class so that the pairs or small groups are different. Students should then take it in turns to describe one of these sports without naming it. The partner (or the other students in the group) must try to say which extreme sport is being described.

Write the following list of extreme sports on the board:

bungee jumping
hang-gliding
paragliding
rock climbing
skydiving
snowboarding
whitewater rafting

Ask the students, in pairs or small groups, to rank these activities in order (1) from the most to the least dangerous (2) from those they would most like to try to those they would least like to try.
Teacher's notes

2. The dictation
It is usually best for students to listen to the complete text at least once without stopping before they are asked to take notes. When they listen again, you will need to pause from time to time to allow students to write. The script above has suggested pause marks. One of the values of dictations is to train the students’ short-term memory, so the sections between pauses should be short enough for the exercise to be do-able, but long enough to be challenging.

You can use the suggestion below to vary this procedure.

Before asking the students to listen to the text, show them the gapped version of the text. Tell them that their job will be to reconstruct the text. This activity works best if the gapped text is projected onto the whiteboard. If this is not possible, you can also copy the gapped text onto the board, but this is obviously rather time-consuming. Alternatively, you can photocopy and distribute the text.

After the students have listened (once or twice), ask them to suggest the missing words. They can do this in any order (i.e. they do not have to attempt to guess missing word #1 first). This can be done collaboratively with the whole class, or you may prefer to make this into a team game (in which you award points for correct guesses).

As students call out correct words, insert them into the text in the appropriate positions until the entire text has been reconstructed. If necessary, play the recording (or read the text yourself) again at some point.

Note: the missing words are all common English words and can be found in the list of Defining Vocabulary at the end of the dictionary.

Answers:

21, 24, 36, 51, 63, 67, 85, 90, 94, 114, 121, 123
about 110
activities 60
an 46, 49
and 50, 102
are 42, 58
around 101
as 35, 40
attached 116
available 6
back 119
ball 28
board 47
choice 2
clothes 53
combine 73
consisting 92
continues 9
court 91
death 66
down 20
each 12
example 16
extreme 4, 41, 76
fast 70
few 52
for 15, 82
from 64
fun 80
games 72
get 62
give 29
grow 11
high 26
hill 22
how 109
if 103
individual 59
inside 23
instance 83
is 84, 115
jumping 57
kick 34
kind 86
like 55
metre 25
most 54
new 68
none 104
of 3, 33, 69, 75, 81, 87, 93, 96, 105, 120
on 89, 97
or 56, 112
others 38
plain 43
plastic 27
played 88
players 100
ride 37
roll 19
rope 124
same 31
series 95
some 14
sort 32
sports 5, 8, 77
such 39
take 45
team 71
the 1, 30, 74, 79, 99, 118
these 106
three 25
to 7, 10, 48, 107, 117
water 111
where 17, 61, 113
which 98
with 65, 78, 122
year 13
you 18, 44, 108
The choice of extreme sports available to speed-loving, thrill-seeking, sports-mad adrenaline junkies continues to grow each year. Some, such as zorbing for example, where you roll down a hill inside a three-metre high plastic ball, give the same sort of skick as a fairground ride. Others, such as extreme ironing, are plain weird: you take an ironing board to an inaccessible location and iron a few clothes. Most, like paragliding or bungee jumping, are individual activities where participants get a buzz from dicing with death. However, a new generation of ultra-fast team games combine the exhilaration of extreme sports with the fun of cooperative teamwork. Slamball, for instance, is a kind of basketball played on a court consisting of a series of trampolines on which the players bounce around. And if none of these appeal to you, how about barefoot water-skiing, or sandsurfing where a skateboard is attached to the back of a four-by-four with a tow rope?
Teacher's notes

3. Follow-up
You can use one or both of the exercises below to explore some of the language in the dictation.

AFFIXATION

Ask the students to look at the three compound adjectives (speed-loving, thrill-seeking, sports-mad) in the first two lines of the dictation. Write two columns on the board as below:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPEED</td>
<td>LOVING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THRILL</td>
<td>SEEKING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS</td>
<td>MAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask the students which other combinations are possible.

Answer:
Speed-seeking is possible, but very rare. Speed-mad is quite common. Thrill-loving is quite common. Thrill-mad is possible, but less common. Sports-loving is common. Sports-seeking is a very unlikely combination.

Tell the students to turn to page LA14 in the middle of their dictionaries and to look at the right-hand column (‘Affixation’). Ask them to find the section in the middle which lists these and similar affixes (-aholic, -crazy, -hungry, -loving, -mad, -mania, -phile, -seeking).

Put the students in pairs and ask them to think of at least two nouns that could be used before each of these suffixes. For each compound adjective that they form, they should also think of someone who could be described in that way.

Suggested answers:
alcoholic, chocoholic, golfaholic, shopaholic, workaholic
boy-crazy, girl-crazy, gun-crazy, power-crazy, soccer-crazy
cash-hungry, job-hungry, power-hungry, profit-hungry
freedom-loving, fun-loving, home-loving, power-loving, sun-loving, wine-loving
car-mad, football-mad, power-mad, sex-mad, soccer-mad
Beatlemania, DIY mania, merger mania, Salsa-mania (Note: the suffix mania is usually used with very ephemeral fashions)
anglophile, bibliophile, francophile, paedophile, slavophile, technophile
attention-seeking, autonomy-seeking, power-seeking, publicity-seeking, self-seeking

When students have had enough time, conduct feedback with the whole class, eliciting their suggestions and giving feedback.
Teacher's notes

EXEMPLIFICATION

Ask the students to look at the dictation text again and to find four different ways in which the author of the text gives examples.

Answer:

Some, zorbing for example, [...] give the same sort of kick ...
Others, such as extreme ironing, are plain weird
Most, like paragliding or bungee jumping, are individual activities ...
Slamball, for instance, is a kind of basketball played on a court ...

Now tell the students to turn to pages IW10 and IW11 of the Improve your Writing section in the middle of their dictionaries. Tell them to rewrite the relevant sections of the text using four of the following words and phrases:

- e.g.
- examples include ...
- ... is a case in point.
- ... is an example of ...
- ... most notably ...
- ... provide a good illustration of ...

Ask the students to do further research on a variety of extreme sports. Divide the topics below between the members of the class and ask them to report back. (Note: access to the internet will be needed for this activity.)

1. BASE jumping
2. bossaball
3. burrito mile
4. ghost riding
5. skysurfing
6. street luge
7. stunt pogo
8. wing walking